

Minutes of Special Meeting of March 28, 2014 (Study Session)
One Twin Pines Lane, Emergency Operations Center

CALL TO ORDER 2:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Reed, Braunstein, Stone, Lieberman

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Community Development Director de Melo, Executive Assistant Plut, City Engineer Alvarez, Deputy Fire Chief Gaffney, City Treasurer Violet, Finance Director Fil, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Police Chief DeSmidt, Fire Chief Keefe

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Valerie Dohrenwend, Belmont resident, commented about the City Council's recent discussion regarding the donation of property in the San Juan Canyon. She pointed out that some owners of undevelopable lands contiguous to City land might want to donate. She suggested that the City make it advantageous to do so.

Mayor Lieberman clarified that the City has not rejected lot donation in the past. He pointed out that the City Council will be seeking future policies regarding the donation of property.

CITY COUNCIL PLANNING WORKSHOP

City Council Priority Setting

The City Council reviewed current priorities, removed some items, combined some items with others, and determined that the following priorities would be the primary focus for 2014/2015:

- Ralston Corridor
- General Plan Update/Downtown Village Zoning
- Capital Financing for Infrastructure
- Parks and Recreation Facilities (including Barrett, athletic fields, completion of Davey Glen Park)

A subcommittee of Councilmembers Reed and Stone was formed to work with staff on recommended changes to the tree ordinance, sign ordinance, and design review/zoning standards for single-family homes.

Review Principals and Policies

Council concurred to adopt a set of norms and to update protocols. Mayor Lieberman will work with the City Manager to find a good model.

Council concurred to have departments with commissions review existing ordinances governing commissions and to suggest modifications if necessary to better reflect roles and responsibilities.

Discussion ensued regarding City Council compensation and Council concurred to have a future agenda topic on this matter.

Councilmember Reed suggested looking at potential modifications to the campaign finance ordinance. Council concurred, and agreed there was no urgency on this issue.

Council concurred to address the proposed policy items in staff's work plan for the coming year, as follows:

- Adopt a Legislative Platform
- Modify the purchasing limits to allow for improved efficiency
- Potential amendments to the sign ordinance and tree ordinance
- Review the business license tax
- Evaluate discretionary design review threshold
- Consider approval of process improvements for ministerial matters

Councilmember Braunstein expressed a desire to discuss the subsidy to the Parks and Recreation Department at budget time.

Councilmember Braunstein commented regarding the disposition of the \$500,000 proceeds from a previous sale of property. He pointed out that it was placed in the General Fund and should have been placed in a special fund. City Manager Scoles clarified that the proceeds were used to increase the ending fund balance. He noted this could be further discussed at budget time.

Council discussed paperless agendas. City Manager Scoles pointed out that upgraded software programs will enable the uploading of the electronic council packet more quickly than the current process. Council concurred to have the IT Department support Councilmembers who wish to go paperless.

Mayor Lieberman expressed a desire to address the Mayor/Vice Mayor rotation as is currently outlined in the protocols. Council concurred to review this in conjunction with a future discussion of protocols.

Council Meeting Schedule

Council concurred to cancel the August 12 council meeting for a summer recess as well as the December 23 council meeting, and to change the start time of regular city council meetings from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m., effective for the April 22, 2014 meeting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Perry Kennan, Belmont resident, commented regarding improvements in communication. He stated that residents need to understand why there is no money for roads. He also commented regarding Council benefits and recommended that the City Council should get fair money but not too much. He also commented that the City Manager should not be the only one to set the City Council's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 5:15 p.m.

Terri Cook
City Clerk

Meeting audio-recorded but not videotaped